



# *The Top 10 Facts on Bicycling and Walking in the United States*

1

Bicycling and walking make up 10% of all trips made in the United States, but receive less than two percent of federal transportation funding.<sup>1</sup>

2

Bicyclists and pedestrians account for 13% of traffic fatalities, but receive less than one percent of federal safety funding.<sup>2</sup>

3

40% of all trips in America are two miles or less, 74% of which are travelled by car.<sup>3</sup>



4

Americans spend, on average, 18% of their annual income for transportation. The average annual operating cost of a bicycle is 3.75% (\$308) of an average car (\$8,220).<sup>4</sup>

5

A small reduction in driving causes a large drop in traffic. In 2008, the number of vehicle miles travelled dropped 3%, translating to a nearly 30% reduction in peak hour congestion.<sup>5</sup>

6

Transportation sources account for 70% of our nation's oil consumption and for 30% of total U.S. GHG emissions.<sup>6 7</sup>

7

Simply increasing bicycling and walking from 10% of trips to 13% could lead to fuel savings of around 3.8 billion gallons a year. This is equivalent to having 19 million more hybrid cars on the road.<sup>8</sup>

8

89% of Americans believe that transportation investments should support the goals of reducing energy use.<sup>9</sup>

9

71% of Americans report that they would like to bicycle more. 53% favors increasing federal spending on bicycle lanes and paths.<sup>10 11</sup>

10

For the price of one mile of four-lane urban highway, around \$50 million, hundreds of miles of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure can be built, an investment that could complete an entire network of active transportation facilities for a mid-sized city.<sup>12</sup>



- <sup>1</sup> Alliance for Biking and Walking, 2007 Benchmarking Report,  
[http://www.peoplepoweredmovement.org/site/index.php/site/programs/2007\\_benchmarking\\_report/](http://www.peoplepoweredmovement.org/site/index.php/site/programs/2007_benchmarking_report/)
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, and  
Department of Transportation, 2009, Pocket Guide to Transportation 2009.
- <sup>3</sup> Federal Highway Administration, National Household Travel Survey, 2001.
- <sup>4</sup> U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, and  
Department of Transportation, 2009, Pocket Guide to Transportation 2009  
Bike cost from Moritz, W., 1997, Survey of North American bicycle commuters: Design and aggregate  
results, Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, 1578, 91-101.
- <sup>5</sup> INRIX National Traffic Scorecard, [<http://scorecard.inrix.com/scorecard/summary.asp>], (Last accessed  
6/2/09)
- <sup>6</sup> Energy Information Administration, Annual Energy Review, 2009. <http://www.eia.doe.gov/aer/petro.html>  
{Accessed 7/30/09}
- <sup>7</sup> Environmental Protection Agency, "Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the US Transportation Sector 1990  
-2003." March 2006.
- <sup>8</sup> Gotschi, Thomas and Kevin Mills. Active Transportation for America, Rails to Trails Conservancy, 2008.
- <sup>9</sup> National Association of Realtors and Transportation for America, 2009, 2009 Growth and Transportation  
Survey
- <sup>10</sup> Royal, D., and D. Miller-Steiger, 2008, National Survey of Bicyclist and Pedestrian Attitudes and  
Behavior, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- <sup>11</sup> Belden Russonello & Stewart. "Americans' Attitudes Toward Biking." Survey. April 2003
- <sup>12</sup> Gotschi, Thomas and Kevin Mills. Active Transportation for America, Rails to Trails Conservancy, 2008.